

SECCS Fourth Edition

Happy Holidays from the SECCS Project in California. We hope you've enjoyed restful times with family and friends and that the next month brings time for reflection, exercise and feeling good. The SECCS staff will be traveling to Virginia this week for the National SECCS Conference, a good time for sharing information and learning about successful programs in the 58 other states and territories. We'll be bringing back strategies to adapt to California.

The California SECCS Steering Committee has been selected. We are delighted that this group of dynamic individuals, from across the state, have agreed to participate in the development of the Strategic Plan to integrate services for children birth to five. They are all great thinkers and visionaries and represent a broad cross section of expertise, geography and cultural groups. Please welcome:

<i>Yolie Aguilar</i>	<i>Executive Director, Children's Planning Council LA</i>
<i>Abbey Alkon</i>	<i>University of California San Francisco School of Nursing, California Child Care Health Program</i>
<i>Ellen Buchanan</i>	<i>SECCS Project Liaison, Dept. of Health, Maternal Child Health Branch</i>
<i>Derek Chernow</i>	<i>Executive Director, Odyssey Project</i>
<i>Judy Chynoweth</i>	<i>Executive Director, Foundation Consortium</i>
<i>Ed Condon</i>	<i>Executive Director, California Head Start</i>
<i>Margaret Dunkle</i>	<i>Los Angeles Early Identification and Intervention</i>
<i>Carlos Flores</i>	<i>Associate Executive Director, San Diego Regional Center</i>
<i>Neal Halfon</i>	<i>Executive Director, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities</i>
<i>Jane Henderson</i>	<i>Executive Director, California First Five Commission</i>
<i>Karen Hill Scott</i>	<i>Karen Hill Scott and Associates</i>
<i>Penny Knapp</i>	<i>State Department of Mental Health and UC Davis</i>
<i>Janelle Kubinec</i>	<i>Schools Legal Services</i>
<i>Kat Lowrance</i>	<i>Executive Director, Rowell Family Empowerment Center</i>
<i>Debbie MacDonald</i>	<i>President, California Alternative Payment Programs Association</i>
<i>Maria Minon</i>	<i>Chief Medical Officer, Children's Hospital Orange County</i>
<i>Cindy Oser</i>	<i>West Coast Representative, Zero to Three</i>
<i>Maria Rios</i>	<i>Latino Family Day Care Association, Kern County</i>
<i>Bob Ross</i>	<i>Executive Director, California Endowment</i>
<i>Marv Southard</i>	<i>Director, Los Angeles County Mental Health Department</i>

THIS MONTH, THE FOURTH EXCITING PROJECT BEING HIGHLIGHTED, IN THE FIELD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES, IS THE ICARE PROGRAM IN LOS ANGELES.

The **I**nfancy, **C**hildhood and **R**elationship **E**nrichment (**ICARE**) Advisory Committee is a group of more than 30 county-contracted mental health service provider agencies who have expertise in the area of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health. The ICARE Advisory Committee was formed in 1999 and supported by the California State First 5 Commission through the State Department of Mental Health's Infant, Preschool and Family Mental Health Initiative. This funding enabled DMH to coordinate training for numerous mental health and non-mental health agencies in Los Angeles County. Technical assistance was also provided to at least 20 volunteer mental health agencies through the "Centers of Excellence" (6 agencies with established reputations for their "best practices" and expertise in the field of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health) to improve service delivery and capacity to children ages 0-5 and their families. Many local and national experts have provided on-going training to the original group of participating mental health agencies known as "Pioneer Providers."

Mission

ICARE is dedicated to building agency/community capacity within the respective L.A. County Service Planning Areas to provide mental health services and supports for children birth to five and their families.

Goals

1. To improve the health and socio-emotional well-being of infants, young children, and their families in Los Angeles County.
2. To facilitate access to a comprehensive network of accessible and culturally/linguistically appropriate community resources for parents, caregivers, relatives, educators, day care, health care and mental health providers.
3. To advocate at the local and state levels for best practices in serving children birth to five and their families.
4. To support appropriate education/training, consultation and technical assistance for services providers.

This is a great group of folks that meet on a regular basis. For more information, contact Dr. Ilda Rueda De Leon at iruedadel@dmh.co.la.ca.us

Focus groups have been conducted with First 5 Executive Directors Association, San Benito First 5 staff, farm workers in Watsonville, and are scheduled for the Children's Roundtable, the Kern County Network for Children, the LA Child Care Council, LA ELL and the California Head Start Conference. If you have a group that would be interested in an overview of the SECCS Project or participation in a focus group, please contact me.

If you are **not** interested in receiving future updates from the SECCS project, please email me back and I will remove your name. On the other hand, if you are interested in adding additional folks you think would benefit from the updates, please let me know and I will add their names. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please feel free to correspond with me by email wewayne@kern.org or telephone 916 552-8742 or 661 204-8840. Visit the SECCS website at: <http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/programs/seccsfacts.htm>